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人工種子の製造方法

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明 知 害

1. 発明の名称

人工種子の製造方法

2: 特許請求の範囲

植物不定胚を用いて製造される人工種子において、前記不定胚を乾燥させて貯蔵することを特徴とする人工種子の製造方法。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

この発明は、植物不定胚を用いて製造される人 工種子に係り、特にその長期貯蔵を可能とする製造方法に関する。

(従来の技術)

近年、植物組織培養を利用した植物の大型増殖法として、人工種子が注目されている。この人工種子とは、カルスより分化した不定胚あるいは胚様体をカブセルに包埋し、栄養物等を含有させてこれに製殖体としての種子と同じ様な役割を人工的に与えたものである。そして、この人工程子が自然界の種子に比べて持つ利点は、胚様体を含む

ゲル中に弱哉ウィルスや農薬あるいは除草剤等を 封入することにより、自然の種子にはない機能を も備えることができることである。

(発明が解決しようとする課題)

しかしながら、この人工種子に用いる不定胚は、 受情により発生する種子の胚(受精胚)と形態や 発育は同じであるが、種皮がないこと、初期生育 のための貯蔵姿分が少ないこと、成長力に差異が あること、貯蔵性がよいこと等の点で異なってい る。このため、人工種子を実用化するためには、

- (i) 遺伝的変異が少なく成長力の高い、賞・量ともに優れた不定胚を得ること、
- (2) 自然の種子と同様に取り扱うことのできる 包埋材料及び包埋方法を確立すること、
- (3) 人工植子を長期間貯蔵する方法を確立する こと、

のような大きな問題点を解決しなければならない。 従来技術では、得られた不定胚に栄養成分など 水分の多い状態でカプセル化されていたのは、不 定胚の植物体再生に必須と考えられていたためで あり、長期間保存に耐えることができなかった。 この発明は、不定胚より植物体再生には障害と なると考えられていた水分減少下すなわち乾燥状態に不定胚をおいて、その乾燥不定胚より乾燥前 と同様に植物体を再生することによって長期間貯 蔵可能な人工種子の製造方法を提供することを目 的とする。

(課題を解決するための手段・作用)

受精胚は、ある発育段階に達すると乾燥に耐え得ることが可能となり、さらに成熟した種子の胚は低温乾燥下で長期間貯蔵することが知られている。また、受精胚では水分含量が低下する前にabscisic acid (ABA)含量が増大するという知見もある。

プカルスから分化した不定胚は、受精胚とその由来は異なるし、また植物におけるような種子形成能をもたない。しかし、不定胚にも乾燥に耐えるような機能を持ち得れば長期間貯蔵に極めて好都合である。そこで、カルスより不定胚を形成させたあと、ABAの存在、不存在下乾燥し、長期間

200g/ l. ニコチン酸 50g/ l. 塩酸ビリドキシン 50g/ l. ミオイノシトール 10g/ l 及び塩酸チアミン 10g/ lを加えた M S 培地、30g/ lの底筋及び 9g/ l の寒天を加えための(以下M S 基本培地という)である。

上記福程後、33日目に4~5 mmに切断した胚輪を、5×10~Mの2、4一Dを含むMS基本培地上に置床し、27℃の暗所でなるして、39日後に、2,4一Dを含むいMS基本培地にカルスを移植し、27℃の実験によるのででででなってもり、その結果、14~18日で下で配分化を確認するでは異、14~18日で下で配分化を確認する。なりは40倍の実体顕微鏡を用い、幼苗の確認は40倍の実体顕微鏡を用い、幼苗の確認は肉眼で行なっている。

ABA処理は、不定胚分化を確認後2週間目から3日間行なっている。ABA処理には、魚武型不定胚10~15個体、幼苗2~3個体が確認されたカルス(約10g)を用いている。そして、

貯蔵後の植物体再生を鋭意検討の結果、不定胚を 乾燥しても十分長期間の貯蔵後植物体を再生でき ることを見出だし、この発明に達した。

(実施例)

以下、この発明の実験例を述べる。なお、この実験で使用される材料としては、市販されている人参(品種名 スーパー大型五寸人参、渡辺種苗株式会社)を用いている。なお、人参の不定胚は、受精胚と同様に球状胚、ハート型胚及び魚盤型胚を経て形成される。

実験!

不定胚形成カルスの乾燥後の植物体再生

(1) 実験方法

まず、1986年7月31日に、上記実験材料の種子を、70%エチルアルコールに1分間、2%次亜塩素酸ナトリウムに20分間浸漬して殺菌し、無菌水で6回洗浄して18×130元の試験管内の窓天培地(10元)上に播種する。その後、上記種子を実験室内の直射日光の当たらない明所で育成させる。この窓天培地は、グリシン

小シャーレ (20×10m) に10×20mの 遺紙 (東洋遺紙2) を6枚重ね置き、10⁴、 10⁵及び10⁴ MのABAを含むMS液体培地 と、ABAを含まないMS液体培地とを1ccづつ 加え、その上にカルスを置床し処理している。

乾燥処理は、30gの乾燥したシリカゲルを入れた腰高シャーレ(6×4・5 cm)を用いて行なっている。すなわち、このシャーレ内に、0・5配のMS液体培地を含む遮紙(10×15 cm)を入たを重ね置いた小シャーレ(20×10 cm)を入れ、この遮紙上にカルスを置床したる。処理関分の乾燥であった。乾燥であった。乾燥のシリカゲルの骨色は、乾燥にとんど同じであった。そして、乾燥間 は後2日目に、カルスを直接MS基本培地上に移し生存を観察する。

なお、上記実験は全て無菌条件下で行なっている。 すなわち、液体培地あるいは寒天培地は、1 2 1 ℃で 1 5 分間オートクレープで減菌し、シ

リカゲルと接高シャーレは、160℃で1時間乾 A 該菌を行なっている。

(2) 実験結果

乾燥カルスをMS基本培地上で培養してから35日目の結果を表1に示している。

ABA濃度 (M)	0	10-6	10-5	10-4
供試カルス数	2	2	3	3
生存カルス数	0	0	3	1

- 表 1

表 1 から明らかなように、 A B A 1 0 5 M 区で3 個の全てのカルスに、 1 0 4 M 区で3 個のカルス中 1 個から多数の植物体の再生が確認されている。 第 1 図に示す写真は、 A B A 1 0 5 M で 3 日 培養後乾燥したカルスより再生している人参幼品物の、 M S 基本培地に置床後 1 8 日目の生育状況を示している。

なお、ABA10⁵ M及び10⁻⁴ Mの両区で、 乾燥前に肉眼で確認できるまでに生育していた幼 苗は、乾燥により全て褐変し枯死した。また、

のシリカゲルを入れた乾燥用の腰高シャーレに入れて行なっている。この場合、乾燥状態(水分含量約4%)に達するまでに5~6日を要した。そして、この乾燥状態で6日間及び14日間保存し後、カルスを直接MS基本培地上に置床し生存を観察する。

(2) 実験結果

まず、不定胚形成カルスに、遮紙上でABA処理及び乾燥処理を行ない、6日間及び14日間乾燥貯蔵した後、MS基本培地に置床してから30日目の生存カルス数を、表2及び表3にそれぞれ示している。

乾燥貯蔵期間		6	<u>B</u>	
ABA濃度 (M)	0	104	10-5	10-4
供試カルス数	1.0	10	10	.7
生存カルス数	0	5	0	0
生けパルヘ級				

表 2

A B A 1 0 3 M 処理区のカルスを M S 培地に置床後、1 9日目に再生個体を他の試験管に移植し、その後その一部を1 4 日目に他の試験管に移す操作を2回録り返した結果、極めて多数(約8000個体)の再生個体が得られた。

実験Ⅱ

不定胚形成カルスの乾燥貯蔵と植物体再生

(1) 実験方法

2.4-Dを5×10・M含むMS基本培地で 提代培養してきたカルスをMS基本培地で一週間 培養し、ついでABA処理を10日間行なった。 この処理は、小シャーレ(20×10 mm)に 10×15 mmの濾紙 6 枚を重ね置き、これに ABA10・、10・及び10 Mを含むMS液 体培地と、その対照としてABAを含まない培地 とをそれぞれ1ccづつ加え、この遮紙上にカルス を置床して行なった。また、上記と同様の濃度の ABAを含む寒天培地(寒天5g/ℓのMS培地) 上でも、同じ実験を行なった。

乾燥は、蓋をしたままの小シャーレを、30g

乾燥貯蔵期間		14	8	
ABA油度 (M)	0	10-6	105	10-4
供試カルス数	10	10	10	10
生存カルス数	0	5	0	0
	1.07	 -		

表 3

表2及び表3から明らかなように、貯蔵期間が6日間及び14日間の両区において、ABA違度10~M区で供試カルス数の50%から植物体の再生が認められた。ABA10~、10~M及びその対照区でも、生存を示す白色のカルス組織が認められたが、これらの区からは再生誘導を開始して2ヶ月後でもカルスの増殖や植物体の再生は認められなかった。

第2図に示す写真は、遮紙上でABA処理し6日間乾燥貯蔵した後、MS基本培地に置床後25日目の生育状況を示している。なお、第2図において、図中左から、ABA10~,10~,10~及び0M処理のカルスから植物体が生育している状況を示している。また、第3図に示す写

真は、遮紙上でABA処理し14日間乾燥貯蔵した後、MS基本培地に置床後22日目の生育状況を示している。なお、第3図において、図中左から、ABA10g,10ヵ,10ヵ及び0M処理のカルスから植物体が生育している状況を示しており、試験管上部に見える白い部分はカルスの乾燥に用いた遮紙である。

次に、寒天上でABA処理及び乾燥処理を行ない6日間及び14日間乾燥貯蔵した後、MS基本培地に選床してから20日目の生存カルス数を、表4及び表5にそれぞれ示している。

乾燥貯蔵期間		6	8	
ABA濃度 (M)	0	10 ℃	10-5	10-4
供試カルス数	10	10	10	10
生存カルス数	0	0	0	0

表 4

日で乾燥し、両処理区間ではほとんど楚異が認め られなかった。

実 験 皿

乾燥不定胚の植物体再生

(1) 実験方法

カルスをMS基本培地に移植して2~3週間後に実体顕微鏡(40倍)を用いて、0.5~1 mm未満と1~2 mm未満の魚雷型不定胚及び5~8 mmの幼苗を分離し、実験では、直径35 mmの繊紙1枚を用いている。この場合、不定胚及び幼苗は、いずれも乾燥開始後約12時間で乾燥状態に達し、その1.5日後に20 mmのMS基本培地を含むシャーレ(60×15 mm)に直接遮紙ともに置床している。なお、この実験では、乾燥前にABA

(2) 実験結果

魚雷型不定胚及び幼苗を乾燥した後の、MS基本培地に置床後2週間目の植物体再生数を表6に示している。

乾燥貯蔵期間		1 4	8	
ABA濃度 (M)	0	10-6	105	10-4
供試カルス数	10	10	10	10
生存カルス数	1	0	0	0

表 5

表 4 及び表 5 から明らかなように、 A B A 無処理区の 1 4 日間乾燥貯蔵した区で、 1 つのカルスのみが生存していた。 第 4 図に示す 写真は、 寒天上で A B A 処理し 1 4 日間乾燥貯蔵した後、 M S 基本培地に置床後 2 5 日目の生育状況を示している。 なお、 第 4 図において、 図中左から、 A B A O 、 1 O ⁴ 、 1 O ⁵ 及び 1 O ⁴ M 処理のカルスから植物体が生育している状況を示している。このように、 遮紙上で乾燥した場合には、 寒天上で乾燥した場合よりも多くのカルスが生存して

このように、遮紙上で乾燥した場合には、寒灭上で乾燥した場合よりも多くのカルスが生存している。前者ではABA10~ M処理区で10個の生存カルスが見られたが、後者ではABA無処理区で1個の生存カルスが存在しただけである。なお、遮紙及び寒天上のカルスは、両区とも5~6

不定胚 (幼苗)	0.5 ~ 1 mm	1~2=	5~8mm
の全長	未満	未満	
供試不定胚数	4 0	20	16
再生不定胚数	14 (12)	(12)	[5]

表 6

ただし、()内は2週間後も白い状態で生育が認められない不定胚数を示し、[]内は子葉部分や根の先端が白色で生存しているが、他の部分が褐変している個体数を示している。

残りの12個体は、5週間後でも白い状態であり 生育は認められなかった。

一方、生育を始めた14個体は、さらに生育を始めた14個体は、第5図の状なりに、第5図の状なりに示す写真のようないがある。また、1~2㎜未満の不定胚は、20個体のうち12個体が白い状態でありに、のは、 間後でも生育は認められなかった。 生育は認められなかった。

実 験 IV

(1) 実験方法

· ·		乾燥	貯蔵	助 間	4週1	3		
ABA違 皮(M)		乾 城 8~1	時間 〇時間			乾 編 30~3	-	· · · · · ·
0	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
0-0	+++	.+++	++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++
105	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
10-4	+++	+	+	+	+++	+++	++	+

表 8

		乾燥	貯蔵	明門	8 23 [n		
ABA編 度 (M)			時間			-	時間36時間	
0	+++	+++	+	+	+++	+++	+++	+++
10-6	+++	+++	++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++
105	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
1 0-4	+++	+	+	+	+++	+++	+++	+

後 9

床し、生存を観察する。

(2) 実験結果

1, 4, 8週間乾燥貯蔵した後の植物体再生率 を、表7, 8, 9にそれぞれ示している。

		乾燥	貯蔵	(II)	1週間	3		
ABA違 度 (M)		乾燥 8~1	時 間			乾 燥 30~3	時間36時間	
0	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
10~	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
10-5	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
10-4	±	±	±	±	+++	+++	+.++	++

表

ただし、+++は多くの苗木が再生されたことを示し、++は数個の苗木が再生されたことを示し、+は2~3の苗木が再生されたことを示し、は白いままで苗木が再生されなかったことをしている。また、表7、8はそれぞれ乾燥カルスをMS寒天培地に置床後27℃の状態で3週間後にふ化した生存数を示している。

表7、8、9から明らかなように、30~36時間かけてゆっくり乾燥させたカルスからは、ABA処理にあまり関係なく多数の植物体の再生が確認され、人参の不定胚が長期間の乾燥貯蔵に耐え得ることがわかる。

実 験 V

(1) 実験方法

特開平2-31624 (6)

び10か月間乾燥貯蔵後、MS奈天培地に置床し、 生存を観察する。

(2) 実験結果

1 週間及び 1 0 か月間乾燥貯蔵した後の植物体 生存数を、表 1 0 . 1 1 にそれぞれ示している。

乾燥貯蔵期間	1 週間				
ABA遠度 (M)	供試カルス数	生存カルス数			
0	30	26			
10-6	30	26			
10-5	30	30			
10-4	30	27			

发 1 0

					$\overline{}$		
乾燥貯蔵期間	1 0 か 月						
		生存カルス数					
BA湿度(M)	供試カルス数	1 週間	2週間	3週間	4週間		
0	27	0	3	4	6		
10~	30	0	5	6	8		
10-5	30	0	12	12	1 5		
10-4	3	0	8	10	10		

表 1 1

なかった人工種子の長期間の貯蔵を可能とし得る 極めて良好な人工種子の製造方法を提供すること ができる。

1. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図はABA10ヶMで3日間培養後乾に させたカルスより再生している生物の形態ををでするとの及び第3図はそれぞれ遮紙上でABA処理しも日間乾を示す写典にしたの形態を示す写典にしたの形態を示するとものとなるとは、第6図はそれぞれ魚田県を正路に置するとの生物の形態を示す写真である。

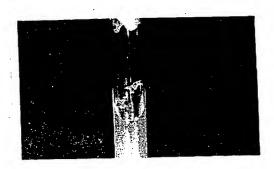
出颇人代理人 弁理士 鈴 江 武 彦

表10は1週間乾燥貯蔵後のカルスをMS窓天 培地に置床後27℃の状態で2週間後にふ化した 生存カルス数を示し、表11は10か月間乾燥貯 蔵後のカルスをMS窓天培地に置床後27℃の状 態で1,2,3.4週間後にふ化した生存カルス 数をそれぞれ示している。乾燥貯蔵期間が長いほ ど、ABA処理の効果があることが認められる。

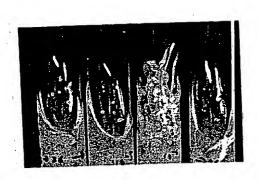
以上の実験 1 ~ V からわかるように、カルスやに存在する不定胚は十分乾燥に耐え得ることがこれる。 とにより少なくとも 1 0 か月は乾燥できることが認められる。 乾燥 かんこの乾燥できるとが、はいるのが、ではないないない。 をはれると 5 分離して、 1 配換 にも、 胚の発達が 0 . 5 分離 して、 は、 供 は 不定胚の 3 5 %が 植物体を形成したことが確認されている。

(発明の効果)

したがって、以上群述したようにこの発明によ れば、不定胚を乾燥させることにより、従来でき

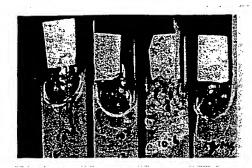


第 1 図

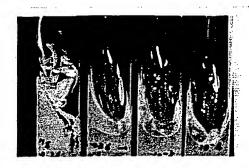


第 2 図

特開平2-31624(ア)



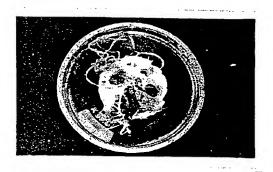
第 3 🗵



第 4 図



第5区



第6日

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SPECIFICATION

1. TITLE OF INVENTION

Method of Manufacturing Synthetic Seeds

2. SCOPE OF CLAIM

In synthetic seeds manufactured by using plant adventitious embryos, a method of manufacturing synthetic seeds characterized by that the said adventitious embryos are dried and stored.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

[Field of industrial application] The present invention is relative to the synthetic seeds manufactured by using plant adventitious embryos, and, in particular, to the method of manufacturing the said seeds that enables their long-term storage.

[Conventional art]

In recent years, synthetic seeds have been drawing much attention as a plant mass-reproduction method using plant tissue cultures. The synthetic seeds comprise adventitious embryos or embryoid bodies differentiated from the callus and embedded in capsules with nutrients and other substances, whereby artificially making these synthetic seeds act as reproductive bodies. An advantage possessed by synthetic seeds over natural seeds is that weakened viruses, fertilizers or pesticides may be sealed into the gel containing embryoid bodies to give the seeds such functions that are not found in natural seeds.

[Problems to be resolved by the present invention]

Although adventitious embryos used for synthetic seeds have the same shape and grow in the same way as embryos developed by fertilization (fertilized embryos), they differ from the latter in that they have no seed coat, little nutrients stored for initial growth, different growth power, and a better storability. Therefore, the following major problems have to be resolved in order to put them to practical use:

(1) Obtain high-quality adventitious embryos in large numbers having little idiovariation and high growth power;

- (2) Find embedding materials and methods which will allow the same handling as that for natural seeds; and
- (3) Establish a method of long-term storage for synthetic seeds.

In conventional art, adventitious embryos are capsulized with nutrients and the like in an environment with high water content because this is deemed essential to adventitious embryos for the reproduction of plant bodies. However, these adventitious embryos cannot be stored for a long period of time.

The purpose of the present invention is to provide a method of manufacturing synthetic seeds that allows a long-term storage of these seeds by reducing the water content of adventitious embryos and putting them in a dry state, which has been considered a hindrance to the reproduction of plant bodies, and by reproducing plant bodies from the dried adventitious embryos in the same manner as from the non-dried embryos.

[Means to resolve the problem]

It is known that fertile embryos can withstand drying once they reach a certain stage of their growth and that the embryos of mature seeds can be dried and stored at a low temperature for a long period of time. It is also thought that the abscisic acid (ABA) content of fertile embryos increases before the water content drops.

Adventitious embryos that have differentiated from the callus differ from fertile embryos in their origin and do not have the ability to produce seeds as plants usually do. However, it would be extremely convenient for long-term storage if adventitious embryos were able to withstand drying. Thus, adventitious embryos formed from the callus were dried with and without the presence of ABA and, after a long period of storage, the reproduction of plant bodies was studied thoroughly. As a result of this study, it was discovered that, even after a long period of storage, the dried adventitious embryos could produce plant bodies. These findings have led us to the present invention.

[Embodiments]

The embodiments of the present invention are described below. The materials used in these experiments are commercially available carrots (name: Super Large 5-inch Carrots, by Watanabe Seeds and Seedlings Co., Ltd.). Adventitious embryos of carrots are formed through the stages of globular embryos, heat-shaped embryos, and torpedo-shaped embryos, as is the case with fertile embryos.

Experiment I:

Plant body reproduction from dried calluses with adventitious embryos

(1) Method of experiment

On July 31, 1986, the seeds of the above experiment material were soaked in 70% ethyl alcohol for 1 minute and 2% sodium hypochlorite for 20 minutes for sterilization. The seeds were then washed 6 times in aseptic water and disseminated on an agar medium (10 ml) in a test tube of 18 mm x 130 mm. These seeds were grown in a brightly-lit laboratory room devoid of direct sunlight. The above agar medium was comprised of an MS medium of 200 mg/l of glycine, 50 mg/l of nicotine acid, 50 mg/l of hydrochloric acid pyridoxin, 10 mg/l of myoinositol, and 10 mg/l of hydrochloric acid thiamin, added with 30 g/l of sucrose and 9 g/l of agar (hereinafter called "MS basal medium").

On the 33^{rd} day from the above dissemination, embryonic axes cut to 4 to 5mm were placed on a MS basal medium containing 5×10^{-6} M of 2, 4 - D and cultured at a temperature of 27° C in the dark so that calluses might be induced. On the 39^{th} day, the induced calluses were transplanted to a MS basal media which did not contain 2, 4 - D and put under approximately 1,000 luxes at 27° C to induce adventitious embryos. The culture in the present experiment was always conducted under the above temperature and light conditions. The differentiation of adventitious embryos was confirmed from 14 to 18 days thereafter. A 40-time stereoscopic microscope was used to confirm adventitious embryos, while the confirmation of young seedlings was done macroscopically.

The ABA treatment was conducted during 3 days 2 weeks after the confirmation of the differentiation of adventitious embryos. Calluses (about 10 mg) in which 10 to 15 bodies of torpedo-shaped adventitious embryos and 2 to 3 young seedlings had been confirmed were used for the ABA treatment. For this treatment, the calluses were placed on 6 paper filters of 10 mm x 20 mm (Toyo Filter 2) superposed in a small plate (20 mm x 10 mm) in which 1 cc each of liquid MS medium containing 10⁻⁶, 10⁻⁵, and 10⁻⁴ of ABA and one without ABA had been added.

Deep plates (6 cm x 4.5 cm) with 30 g of silica gel were used for drying. Small plates (20 mm x 10 mm) with 4 superposed paper filters (10 mm x 15 mm) containing 0.5 ml of liquid MS medium were placed in the high plates. The calluses were placed on these paper filters and the high plates were sealed with Para film for drying. In 12 to 16 hours from the beginning of the treatment, the water content of the callus was approximately 4%, indicating a dry state. The blue colour of the silica gel after drying was of almost the same colour as that before drying. The callus was transferred to and directly placed on a MS basal medium for observation 2 days after the beginning of the drying treatment.

The above experiment above was conducted entirely under aseptic conditions. The liquid medium and agar medium were autoclaved at 121°C for 15 minutes, while the silica gel and high plates were dry-heat sterilized at 160°C for 1 hour.

(2) Results of the experiment

Table 1 shows the results of 35 days of dried callus culture on a MS basal medium.

Table 1

ABA Concentration (M)	0	10-6	10-5	10-4
Number of Sample Calluses	2	2	3	3
Number of Survivor Calluses	0	0	3	1

As is clearly demonstrated in Table 1, the reproduction of a large number of plant bodies was confirmed in all three calluses in the area 10⁻⁵ M and one callus out of three in the area 10⁻⁴ M. The photograph in Fig. 1 shows the state of growth on the 18th day from the date of placing the young carrot plants in the MS basal medium. These young carrot plants were reproduced from the calluses that had been cultured in ABA 10⁻⁵ M for 3 days and dried thereafter.

Young seedlings that could be confirmed macroscopically before the drying in both the areas ABA 10⁻⁵ M and 10⁻⁴ M all turned brown and died as a result of drying. The reproduced bodies in the area ABA 10⁻⁵ M were transplanted to another test tube on the 19th day from the date of planting the calluses in the MS medium. Subsequently, on the 14th day from the transplanting, part of the above bodies were transferred to another test tube. A large number of reproduced bodies (about 8,000 bodies) were obtained by repeating this process twice.

Experiment II:

Storage of dried calluses with adventitious embryos and reproduction of plant bodies

(1) Method of experiment

Calluses that had been subcultured in an MS basal medium containing 5 x 10⁻⁶ M of 2, 4-D were cultured in an MS basal medium for one week and then ABA treated for a period of 10 days. This was conducted by superposing 6 paper filters (10 mm x 15 mm) in a small plate (20 mm x 10 mm) and adding 1 cc each of liquid MS medium containing 10⁻⁶, 10⁻⁵, and 10⁻⁴ of ABA and a control medium without ABA. The calluses were placed on these paper filters. The same experiment was conducted using agar media (agar 5 g/l MS medium) having the same ABA concentrations as those of the above experiment.

Small, covered plates were placed in deep plates with 30 g of silica gel for drying. Five to 6 days were required in order to obtain a dry state (about 4% of water content). After storing dry calluses for 6 days and 14 days respectively, they were directly placed in a MS basal medium and observed.

(2) Results of the experiment

Adventitious embryo calluses were ABA treated and dried on paper filters. They were placed on MS basal media after being dry stored for 6 days and 14 days. Tables 2 and 3 below show the number of survivor calluses 30 days after the date of placing the stored calluses on MS basal media.

Table 2

Dry-storage Period	6 days			
ABA Concentration (M)	0	10-4		
Number of Sample Calluses	10	10	10	7
Number of Survivor Calluses	0	5	0	0

Table 3

Dry-storage Period	14 days			
ABA Concentration (M)	0	10-6	10-5	10-4
Number of Sample Calluses	10	10	10	10
Number of Survivor Calluses	0	5	0	0

As is clearly shown in Tables 2 and 3, the reproduction of plant bodies was observed in 50% of the sample calluses in the area where the ABA concentration was 10⁻⁶ M for both the 6-day and 14-day storage periods. White callus tissues, which indicated life, were observed in both the 10⁻⁵ and 10⁻⁴ M of ABA concentration areas and the control area. However, neither callus multiplication nor plant body reproduction could be observed even 2 months after the beginning of the induction of reproduction.

The photograph in Fig. 2 shows the state of growth of plant bodies 25 days after the dried calluses were placed on MS basal media. These calluses were first treated with ABA on paper filters and dry-stored for 6 days. Fig. 2 shows, from left to right, the state of growth of plant bodies from the ABA 10⁻⁴ M-, 10⁻⁵ M-, 10⁻⁶ M-, and 0 M-treated calluses. The photograph in Fig. 3 shows the state of growth of plant bodies 22 days after the dried calluses were placed on MS basal media. These calluses were first treated with ABA on paper filters and dry-stored for 14 days. Fig. 3 shows, from left to right, the state of growth of plant bodies from the ABA 10⁻⁴ M-, 10⁻⁵ M-, 10⁻⁶ M-, and 0 M-treated calluses, while the white squares above the test tubes are the paper filters that were used to dry the calluses.

Separately, adventitious embryo calluses were ABA treated and dried on the agar. They were placed on MS basal media after being dry stored for 6 days and 14 days

respectively. Tables 4 and 5 below show the number of survivor calluses 20 days after the date of placing the stored calluses on MS basal media.

Table 4

Dry-storage Period	6 days			
ABA Concentration (M)	0	10-6	10-5	10⁴
Number of Sample Calluses	10	10	10	10
Number of Survivor Calluses	0	0	0	0

Table 5

Dry-storage Period	14 days				
ABA Concentration (M)	0	10-6	10 ⁻⁵	10-4	
Number of Sample Calluses	10	10	10	10	
Number of Survivor Calluses	1	0	0	0	

As is clearly shown in Tables 4 and 5, after 14 days only 1 callus in the area not treated with ABA remained alive. The photograph in Fig. 4 shows the state of growth of plant bodies 25 days after the dried calluses were placed on MS basal media. These calluses were treated with ABA on the agar and dry-stored for 14 days. Fig. 4 shows, from left to right, the state of growth of plant bodies from the ABA 0 M-, 10^{-6} M-, 10^{-6} M- and 10^{-4} M-treated calluses.

Thus, more calluses survived when they were dried on paper filters rather than on the agar. In the first case, 10 calluses survived in the ABA 10⁻⁶ M-treated area, while in the latter case only 1 survived in the area not treated with ABA. Five to 6 days were required for the calluses on both paper filters and agar to dry, and no difference was observed between treated and non-treated areas.

Experiment III:

Plant body reproduction by dried adventitious embryos

(1) Method of experiment:

Torpedo-shaped adventitious embryos 0.5 mm or longer but shorter than and those 1 mm or longer but shorter than 2 mm, as well as young seedlings between 5 mm and 8 mm, were separated from the calluses that had been transplanted in a MS basal medium 2 to 3 weeks earlier by using a stereoscopic microscope. These adventitious embryos and young seedlings were then dried using the same method as in Experiment I, except that a

paper filter of 35 mm in diameter was used for the present experiment. The adventitious embryos and the young seedlings all reached a dry state about 12 hours after the beginning of the drying operation. Subsequently, 1.5 days after they became dry, the dried adventitious embryos and young seedlings together with the paper filter were placed directly in small plates (60 mm x 15 mm) containing 20 ml of MS basal medium. No ABA treatment was performed prior to the drying in the present experiment.

(2) Results of the experiment:

Table 6 shows the number of reproduced plant bodies from the dried torpedo-shaped adventitious embryos and young seedlings that were placed in MS basal media for 2 weeks.

Table 6

Total length of Adventitious Embryos/Young Seedlings	0.5 mm = < 1 mm	1 mm = < 2 mm	5mm = = 8 mm
Number of Sample Adventitious Embryos	40	20	16
Number of Reproduced Adventitious Embryos	14 (12)	(12)	[5]

The numbers in brackets () indicate those adventitious embryos that remained white 2 weeks later without a sign of growth, while the numbers in square brackets [] indicate the number of bodies that were alive with white leaves and root tips. The remaining embryos turned brown.

As is clearly shown in Table 6, 26 out of 40 bodies (65%) were alive after being placed in a MS basal medium in the case of adventitious embryos as long as or longer than 0.5 mm but shorter than 1 mm. Of those survivors, 14 bodies (35% of sample bodies) became young seedlings. Therefore, it is confirmed that dried adventitious embryos without the ABA treatment survive. The photograph in Fig. 5 shows the result of 2 weeks' culture of dried torpedo-shaped adventitious embryos shorter than 0.5 mm [translator's comment: this should read 1 mm] before drying. The black parts indicate growing bodies. After 5 weeks the remaining 12 bodies stayed white and showed no signs of growth.

On the other hand, the 14 bodies that had begun growing continued to grow and became young seedlings 5 weeks after they were placed in an MS medium (3 weeks after the state in Fig. 5) as shown in the photograph in Fig. 6. Also, 12 out of 20 of the adventitious embryos as long as or longer than 1 mm but shorter than 2 mm remained white and showed no signs of growth even after 5 weeks. As well, the young seedlings whose leaves and root tips were white did not grow.

Experiment IV:

(1) Method of experiment

Soft, yellowish-white calluses were cultured for 30 days in MS basal media containing 0, 10⁻⁶, 10⁻⁵, and 10⁻⁴ M ABA and dried in deep plates containing silica gel (water content: 4%). In the present experiment, one group of calluses was dried rapidly (8 to 10 hours), while the other group of calluses was dried slowly (30 to 36 hours). These calluses with different drying time were stored for 1, 4, or 8 weeks before being placed directly in MS agar media in groups of 4 for observation.

(2) Results of the experiment

Tables 7, 8, and 9 show the reproduction rate of plant bodies dry-stored for 1, 4, or 8 weeks.

Table 7

Dry-Storage Period: 1 week								
ABA Concentration (M)	Dryin	g Time:	8 to 10	Hours	Dryin	g Time:	30 to 3	6 Hours
0	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
10-6	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
10-5	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
10-4	±	±	±	±	+++	+++	+++	++

Table 8

Dry-Storage Period: 4 week							
ABA Concentration (M)	Drying Time: 8 to 10 Hours	Drying Time: 30 to 36 Hours					
0	+++ +++ +++	+++ +++ +++ +++					
10-6	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	+++ +++ +++					
10-5	+++ +++ +++ +++	+++ +++ +++ +++					
10-4	+++ + + +	+++ +++ +++ +					

Table 9

Dry-Storage Period: 8 week							
ABA Concentration (M)	Drying Time: 8 to 10 Hours Drying Time: 30 to 36 Ho						
0	+++ +++ + +	+++ +++ +++ +++					
10-6	+++ +++ ++ +	+++ +++ +++ +++					
10-5	+++ +++ +++ +++	+++ +++ +++					
10-4	+++ + + +.	+++ +++ +++ +					

In the tables above, + + + indicates that a number of seedlings were reproduced and + + indicates a few seedlings were reproduced, while + indicates that only 2 or 3 seedlings were reproduced and ± means that the calluses remained white and did not produce seedlings. Tables 7 and 8 show the number of calluses that survived and reproduced 3 weeks after the dried calluses were placed in MS agar media. During this period the temperature was kept at 27°C. Table 9 shows the number of calluses that survived and reproduced 2 weeks after the dried calluses were placed in MS agar media. During this period the temperature was kept at 27°C.

As is clearly shown in Tables 7, 8, and 9, a large number of plant bodies were reproduced from the calluses that had been dried slowly for 30 to 36 hours, without much depending on the ABA treatment they had received. This shows that carrot adventitious embryos can withstand a long-term storage.

Experiment V:

(1) Method of experiment

Soft, yellowish-white calluses were cultured for 2 weeks in MS basal media containing 0, 10⁻⁶, 10⁻⁵, and 10⁻⁴ M ABA and dried for 12 hours in deep plates containing silica gel in the same manner as in Experiment IV. These calluses were stored for 1 week or 10 months before being directly placed in MS agar media for observation.

(2) Results of the experiment

Tables 10 and 11 show the reproduction rate of plant bodies dry-stored for 1 week or 10 months.

Table 10

Dry-Storage Period	1 Week				
ABA Concentration (M)	Number of Sample Calluses	Number of Survivor Calluses			
0	30	26			
10-6	30	26			
10-5	30	30			
10-4	30	27			

Table 11

Dry-Storage Period	10 Months					
ABA Concentration (M)	Number of Sample Calluses	Number of Survivor Calluses				
		1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks	
0	27	• 0	3	. 4	6	
10-6	30	0	5	6	8	
10-5	30	0	12	12	15	
10-4	3	0	8	10	10	

Table 10 shows the number of calluses that survived and reproduced at a temperature of 27°C 2 weeks after the calluses that had been stored for 1 week were placed in MS agar media. Table 11 shows the number of calluses that survived and reproduced at a temperature of 27°C 1, 2, 3, or 4 weeks after the calluses that had been stored for 10 months were placed in MS agar media. It is observed that the effect of ABA treatment increases as the dry-storage period becomes longer.

As is demonstrated by Experiments I through V, the adventitious embryos that exist in calluses withstand the drying treatment well and can be stored for at least 10 months if the ABA treatment is applied. The dry-storage is still presently under way and it is surmised that the adventitious embryos in dried calluses can withstand a considerably long storage. Furthermore, it has been confirmed that 35% of torpedo-shaped adventitious embryo samples having an embryo as long as or longer than 0.5 mm but shorter than 1 mm, which were dried after being separated from calluses, produced plant bodies.

[Effect of the invention]

As described above in detail, it is now possible according to the present invention to offer an excellent method of manufacturing synthetic seeds that can be stored for a long period of time by drying adventitious embryos, while, conventionally, such a long-term storage has been impossible.

4. BRIEF EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

Fig. 1 shows a photograph of the state of living beings reproduced from a callus that was dried after being cultured in ABA 10⁻⁵ M for 3 days. Figs. 2 and 3 are photographs showing the state of living beings reproduced from calluses that were dried and stored for 6 and 14 days respectively after being treated with ABA on paper filters. Fig. 4 is a photograph showing the state of living beings reproduced from calluses that were dried and stored for 14 days after being treated with ABA on agar. Figs. 5 and 6 are photographs showing the state of living beings 2 weeks and 5 weeks respectively after torpedo-shaped adventitious embryos were dried and placed on MS basal media.

Attorney for the application: Takehiko Suzue, patent attorney

- Fig. 1
- Fig. 2
- Fig. 3
- Fig. 4
- Fig. 5
- Fig. 6